



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
*Southern District of Georgia*

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*Post Office Box 8970  
Savannah, GA 31412  
(912) 652-4422*

*100 Bull Street  
Savannah, GA 31401  
FAX (912) 652-4805*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**CONTACT: Edmund A. Booth, Jr.**  
**First Assistant U.S. Attorney**  
**(706) 724-0517**

**SAVANNAH CAREER CRIMINAL FORCED INTO THIRTY YEAR RETIREMENT**

**SAVANNAH:** Lisa Godbey Wood, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia, announced that **ERIC RONDELL GABE, also known as DERRICK MINOR**, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Savannah by U.S. District Judge B. Avant Edenfield to 360 months imprisonment on his convictions for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon (as an armed career criminal), possession of marijuana, and carrying a firearm during and in relation to a drug trafficking offense. On April 19, 2006, Gabe had been convicted on the charges by a federal court jury in U.S. District Court in Savannah.

Wood stated that the armed career criminal statute provides for enhanced sentencing of felons in possession of firearms who have previously been convicted on three or more occasions of crimes of violence or drug trafficking. Wood also noted that a conviction of carrying a firearm during a drug trafficking offense allows for an additional sentence of at least five years, consecutive to the term of imprisonment that may be imposed for the other convictions.

“Certified Court documents show that Mr. Gabe had been previously convicted of thirteen felonies. Today, the federal justice system has forced Mr. Gabe to retire from his career of crime.

He will live behind bars for the next three decades. There is no parole in the federal system,” said Wood.

This case was prosecuted under Project Ceasefire which is an initiative to combat gun violence by prosecuting federal firearms offenses throughout the Southern District of Georgia. It resulted from an investigation by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives in conjunction with the Chatham County Counter-Narcotics Team.

Wood praised the investigative efforts which led to the successful prosecution. The United States was represented in this prosecution by Assistant United States Attorney Cameron Heaps Ippolito.

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